

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our students just wrapped up their 2nd quarter, which means we've reached the **halfway point of our year**. As I look forward, there are many events and opportunities coming soon – the winter may be quite mild and uneventful, but our PTA calendar is not!

Be sure to note, that even though we are always looking forward, great things are happening in the here and now! Our **Celebrate Diversity** coordinators are planning a week-long celebration in early March that will highlight each student's individuality. Our basketball co-chairs are preparing for the big game against Herndon Middle on March 9. Our STARS/BUGS coordinator is collecting names of students who truly are stars in our community, and for those students who have focused on **bringing up** their **grades** over the last quarter. Our students are focusing on the February theme, **Perseverance, Strength in Adversity, and Serving Others**, during their Connections time at school. On February 16, we'll all have the opportunity to learn at the **Family Fun Fitness and Health Expo**, held right here at LHMS for the benefit of all our students, staff and families.

During the month of February, there are many meetings where parents can **learn more about the IB program** and class selection for next year.



- Prior to our February 9 PTA meeting, we will host a Q & A Session with the guidance department, and our IB coordinator, Chris Powell. They will be taking questions related to course selection and the IBMYP starting at 6:30 p.m.
- On February 15 from 9 – 10:30 a.m., our Parent Center will be hosting a "Coffee with the Coordinator" to offer another opportunity to learn about the benefits of an IB education and your child's journey through the IB MYP, which begins here at Hughes and concludes at SLHS.
- February 23 at 6:30 p.m., Hughes will be welcoming the parents of rising 7th grade parents.

Enjoy reading this issue of the Hughes PTA News, and keep an eye on the KITS as they come out every week. Opportunity is all around us; our community will be a better place because of the involvement of our students, teachers, administrators, and the many families that make Hughes Middle School such a special place.

Sincerely,

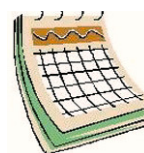
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Langston Hughes Middle

PTA

everychild.onevoice.®

Editors Note: Submissions for the LHMS PTA Newsletter may be emailed to: johnsdjje@verizon.net



CALENDAR

Happenings At Hughes

- February 9** 6:30 p.m. Curriculum/IB Q & A ; 7:00 p.m. PTA mtg./8th grade party planning committee mtg.
- February 15** 9 – 10:30 a.m. Hughes Parent Center "Coffee with the Coordinator" IB information session
- February 16** 6 – 8 p.m. Family Fun Fitness and Health Expo
- February 20** No School; President's Day holiday
- February 23** Hughes Rising 7th grade parent orientation
- March 8** 7 p.m. PTA mtg. – elect nominating Committee
- March 9** Hughes vs. Herndon Basketball Game 6–8:30 p.m.

The PTA publishes a newsletter monthly. In an effort to conserve resources, future editions will only be available on the LHMS PTA website, www.lhmspta.com. If you would prefer, or need, a hard copy, please fill out the following and return it to the school office.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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SHORT TERM HELP NEEDED!

At the March PTA meeting, we will be electing the members of our **Nominating committee**. This is a fantastic opportunity for anyone looking to help, but perhaps not ready to take on a long term project. Those who take part in this committee will:



- Contact existing officers and committee chairs to find out their intent to continue their LHMS PTA volunteer position.
- Reach out to rising 7th and 8th grade volunteers to fill any open positions.
- Present a report to the PTA at our April meeting with the slate of officers.

The goal of this committee is to bring together the ideas and volunteer experience from all the feeder schools with the intent of supporting all of our students, teachers, administration, and families. Contact Kathy Joyner at president@lhmspta.com to help!



IT'S THE BIG ONE! LHMS vs. HMS BASKETBALL



Come one! Come ALL!

The Annual Hughes MS vs. Herndon MS Basketball Game is **Friday, March 9th at 6:00—8:30 p.m.** Fun will be had by all! The friendly rivalry energizes the crowd every year as each team is determined to win! Langston Hughes and Herndon community members are invited to join in on the fun at Langston Hughes gymnasium. Tickets will be sold for \$5.00 at the door. Pizza, snacks, beverages and spiritwear will be available that evening.

If you want to volunteer to help with this popular event, click on the following link to sign up:

<http://www.volunteerspot.com/login/entry/5923456323497880121>



BOXTOPS—KEEP SENDING THEM IN!

Our latest tally for the BoxTops for education program shows that we have almost earned \$300 from this program! If you have any boxtops, please send them in- we'll be turning them in at the end of February. This program is a terrific way to donate to Hughes PTA without writing a check. Collection boxes are available in the main office and in the library - or you can bring them with you to any PTA meeting.



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DIVERSITY WEEK CELEBRATION

Langston Hughes students and staff will celebrate Diversity Week on March 5th through 9th. Throughout the week we will celebrate the many diverse talents, abilities, languages, and cultures of our Hughes community! Look for upcoming flyers and announcements for this year's celebration. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the planning and scheduled events and activities, please contact Lisa Gordon at lgordon1@verizon.net or Eugene Komba at nkomba@gmail.com.

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CALLING ALL 8TH GRADE PARENTS!!!!

The 8th Grade End of the Year Party is scheduled for June 15th. We're calling all **8th Grade Parents** to join us at our first Parent Meeting on **Thursday, February 9th following the regular PTA meeting**, which starts at 7:00 p.m. in the LHMS library. We'll be discussing the theme of the party and breaking up into subcommittees. The more parent volunteers we have, the easier the tasks at hand will be. Consider inviting your 8th Grade parent friends and creating a subcommittee. Working together on this celebration will be a good excuse to get together and have fun. Hope to see all of you on the 25th! If you have any questions or suggestions, you may contact Giannina Velez, giannina@verizon.net, cell 703-834-0710 or Judy Boyer, K9lover@aol.com, cell 703-0626-3282.



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BUGS—Bringing Up Grades

BUGS is a PTA-sponsored program that recognizes students who have raised a whole or half grade in any of the four core subjects from first quarter to second quarter. At the end of the second quarter all eligible students will be entered in a random drawing. Ten names of eligible students will be randomly drawn every day for a whole week. Winners will be announced in the morning announcement and awarded a gift card for their hard work. The holidays are a great time to have the students catch up on any missed homework or assignments and improve their grades. Students who maintain an "A" are not



recognized through BUGS as they are honored through the Honor Roll Program. If you have any questions about the BUGS Program, email shilpagude@yahoo.com.

International Baccalaureate Workshop



Chris Powell, IBMYP Coordinator at Hughes MS and Katherine McDonald, IB Coordinator at South Lakes HS will speak about the benefits of an IB education and provide you with general information related to the IB Middle Years Program at Hughes Middle School.

Information will be available for:

- IB Program at SLHS
- Service learning initiatives and active reflection
- How parents can be involved in an IB education
- Hughes courses that are pre-requisites for later coursework

This will be an informative workshop where you may learn about your child's journey in the IB Middle Years Program.

WHEN: Wednesday, February 15, 2012

WHERE: Langston Hughes Middle School,
Parent Center Trailer #6

TIME: 9-10:30 a.m.

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"Langston Hughes Stars" Student Recognition Program NOMINATION FORM

"But march ever forward, breaking down bars. Look ever upward at the sun and the stars."
– *The Negro Mother, Langston Hughes.*

What makes a child a star? As Langston Hughes suggests, it's all about marching forward, breaking down bars, and aspiring to be the best you can be. Here are some things that make a child a "star" --

- Participation or achievement in athletics at school or out in the community (*ex: team sport, individual sport, athletic event*)
- Participation or achievement in academics (*ex: Math Olympiad, essay contest, spelling bee*)
- Participation or achievement in the arts (*ex: poetry contest, music competition, art show, theater, literary magazine*)
- Something accomplished in conjunction with a school-based club, activity or organization (*ex: Odyssey of the Mind, Lego League, chess club*)
- Something accomplished in conjunction with an outside club, activity or organization (*ex: Boy/Girl Scouts, service clubs, dance teams*)
- Something accomplished in conjunction with a student's family, neighborhood, or community (*ex: helped someone in need; organized a neighborhood event; volunteered at RCC to help with Martin Luther King Day celebration*)
- Participation in an event devoted to raising money or awareness for a cause (*ex: Walked in Relay for life, raised money for hurricane relief*)

Student names & accomplishments will be posted in the "Hall of Stars" (between the gym & cafeteria) throughout the year. Our goal is to ensure that every LHMS student is recognized for their accomplishments!

STUDENT NAME (or initials): _____

YOUR NAME: _____

Relationship to child (i.e., parent, teacher, guidance counsellor): _____

Short (~ one sentence) description of student's achievement:

Please return completed nomination forms to PTA box in mailroom or mail your nominations to shilpagude@yahoo.com

Thanks in advance for helping us showcase the achievements of our students!